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INFORMATION

LITERALLY EYES ONLY

Tuesday, October 29, 1968 - 2:50 pm

Mr. President:

Subject: The Bombing Halt and U.S. Politics.

Seen as coolly as I can, this is Saigon's view:

-- Hanoi and Moscow have tried to time the bombing halt to help Humphrey;

-- They believe President Johnson either wishes to time the bombing halt to help Humphrey or has been put in the position where Hanoi and Moscow can control the timing;

-- They are afraid of Humphrey and want Nixon elected;

-- They believe it is fair, under these circumstances, to use their bargaining leverage to prevent a bombing halt before November 5;

-- In this position they may have been encouraged, to an extent we cannot specify, by some in the Nixon entourage.

I have no "therefore" yet; but we shall be meeting in Sec. Rusk's office at 4:30 p.m. today with Sec. Clifford and Gen. Wheeler.

W. W. Rostow

~~WWRostow:rln~~

WWRostow:rln

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